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## Latin America Weekly Review

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### Human Rights Developments

Chile: The Pinochet government's decision to release Carlos Lazo, who served as Central Bank President in Allende's administration, evidently is aimed at improving Chile's human rights image. The commutation of Lazo's 30-year jail sentence to exile was made at the behest of a visiting Spanish Foreign Ministry official.

There has been much speculation lately in Santiago of an impending large-scale release of important persons jailed following the coup. While the government claims that no political prisoners remain untried, it has reviewed their status on a piecemeal basis and released some former officials convicted by military tribunals. Continuing displays of benevolence at this time indicate growing government jitters about the damaging impact of the investigation of the Letelier assassination.

Possibly emboldened by the government's unease, opposition Christian Democrats are preparing to challenge the emergency powers implemented when the state of siege was dropped earlier this month. Exiled party ideologue, Jaime Castillo, who was expelled summarily in August 1976, plans to return to Chile from Caracas soon. Castillo's arrival would raise some sticky legal problems for the government, and a brusque attempt at expulsion would not only bring fresh charges of human rights violations but would test government intentions under the lower level state of emergency.

Haiti: Haitian justice took a small step forward last week with the unprecedented sentencing of a military officer and two militiamen for their mistreatment of civilians. Lt. Claude Remy was sentenced to six years hard labor and discharged from the Army for the shooting of engineer Jacques Cadet. This was the hotheaded Remy's third such offense. Two members of the militia received

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sentences of four months in jail for the beating of newspaper publisher Pastor Luc Neree. They have already served three months of their jail term. Remy, because of his friendship with President Duvalier, may be released early under one of the President's annual amnesties. Despite the light sentences, these trials may serve as a warning to others and strengthen the hand of the more liberal members of the security establishment in dealing with such abuses. [REDACTED]

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